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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Holy Etchmiadzin, Republic of Armenia, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we thank You for bestowing us with the grace to pray today for the leaders of this Nation who labor in the universal cause of liberty and justice. Increase their wisdom and resolution. Their actions grant inspiration and fulfillment to the desire for justice that lives in every heart. Our Father in heaven, render guidance to all nations, including the Republic of Armenia, our homeland and center of our faith, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

With a solemn burden of history, we remember the victims of the genocide of the Armenians, the consequences of which are still felt by the entire world in new manifestations of genocide. Grant rest to the souls of all victims of crimes against humanity and bestow peace and justice on their descendants. Give pause to those who trample life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Lord, bless this land and people. Grant peace and safety to America's sons and daughters who serve their Nation abroad. May the United States continue her mission as a great beacon of hope. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SCHIP

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, when the House tried to reauthorize the children's health care bill, the President of the United States called SCHIP "a welfare benefit" for "middle-class households."

Maybe there is some confusion at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Our bill provides health care for 10 million children whose parents work every day but can't afford to buy health care. They earn a paycheck, not a welfare check. They are parents like Dolores Sweeney.

Dolores lives in my district. She works for an insurance company that doesn't provide health care. She has three children, and they would like to buy private health care for their children but can't afford it. Her children were on SCHIP, and without the SCHIP program, they would have gone without health care.

Our bill does right by the Sweeney children and 10 million other children from working families. But the President says it's too expensive and calls it welfare for the middle class. At the same time, the President is eager to spend \$680 billion in Iraq. We have spent \$400 billion in 4 years in the war in Iraq, and for 40 days for the cost of the war, 10 million children in America will get health care for a year.

So the President can call the children's health insurance "excessive

spending" and he can call SCHIP "welfare," but for Dolores Sweeney, it is peace of mind.

URGING MEMBERS TO SIGN ON TO KIRK-CARNEY-POE-BERMAN-HARMAN LETTER REGARDING ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, it is sad when another country turns its arms against the United States or our allies, but it is a tragedy when those arms were made by Americans.

Many of us remember when advanced F-14 Tomcat fighters were provided to the Kingdom of Iran only to see these airplanes become the backbone of the ayatollah's air force.

Newspapers indicate that the United States will now offer a large arms sales package to the Saudi Kingdom. And while much of what is proposed looks useful against Iran, patrol craft and warning radars, satellite-guided bombs pose a particular danger if used in the wrong hands.

These satellite-guided bombs, called Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs, are particularly lethal in battle, and if misused against American forces or our allies in Israel, their effect could be not just devastating but tragic.

We should not provide such weapons without ironclad, written guarantees to the Congress that such munitions could not pose a danger to future Americans or our allies. I urge Members to sign the Kirk-Carney-Poe-Berman-Harman letter to block this sale unless guarantees are made.

NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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